

**PATENT COOPERATION TREAT  
PCT  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>MS/13776.6</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> <div style="float: right; font-size: small;">see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below</div>	
International application No. <b>PCT/CA2005/000420</b>	International filing date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 21 March 2005 (21-03-2005)	(Earliest) Priority date ( <i>day/month/year</i> ) 19 March 2004 (19-03-2004)
Applicant <b>COUTURE, RAYMOND</b>		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 6 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the report**
  - a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of:
 

☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed  
☐ a translation of the international application into \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b))
  - b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I
2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (see Box No. II)
3. ☒ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box No. III)
4. With regard to the title,
 

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant  
☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows :
5. With regard to the abstract,
 

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant  
☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority
6. With regard to the drawings,
  - a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☒ as suggested by the applicant  
☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure  
☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention
  - b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract

**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of the first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons :

1. ☐ Claim Nos. :  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely :
2. ☐ Claim Nos. :  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically :
3. ☐ Claim Nos. :  
because they are dependant claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows :

[see Supplemental Box No. III]

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claim Nos. :
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim Nos. : 1-58, 84, 85

**Remark on Protest** ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/CA2005/000420A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC(7): E04F 11/025

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC(7): E04F 11/025, 035, 09, 104, 108, 16 USPC: 52/182, 183, 188

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic database(s) consulted during the international search (name of database(s) and, where practicable, search terms used)

Canadian Patent Database, Delphion, Espacenet (stair\*, stringer, modular, laminate)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	CA 1,145,526 A1 (LAPOINTE) 03 May 1983 (03-05-1983) *page 2, line 6 to page 6, line 3* *figures 1-3*	1-11, 13-19, 23-32, 36-42, 84, 85 12, 20-22, 33-35, 43-58
X Y	US 2,593,683 (LYONS) 22 April 1952 (22-04-1952) *column 1, lines 1-13* *column 1, line 43 to column 4, line 33* *figures 1-2*	1, 3-8, 17, 19, 24, 84 12, 20-22
X Y	CA 1,300,337 (MOLINAZZI) 12 May 1992 (12-05-1992) *page 2, line 25 to page 3a, line 34* *figure 5*	1-8, 13-15, 17 12
Y	US 2,724,466 (PHILLIPS) 22 November 1955 (22-11-1955) *column 2, lines 13-32*	12
Y	CA 2,366,561 A1 (GRENIER) 16 August 2001 (16-08-2001) *page 2, line 9 to page 6, line 11*	20-22, 43-58

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

09 June 2005 (09-06-2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report

20 July 2005 (20-07-2005)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/CA  
Canadian Intellectual Property Office  
Place du Portage I, C114 - 1st Floor, Box PCT  
50 Victoria Street  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0C9  
Facsimile No.: 001(819)953-2476

Authorized officer

Patrick Cyr (819) 953-1304

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/CA2005/000420

## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	CA 2,226,065 A1 (ZENKNER) 25 December 1998 (25-12-1998) *page 2, line 19 to page 5, line 10*	33-35
A	FR 2,740,802 A1 (FREDERIC) 09 May 1997 (09-05-1997) *whole document*	1-58, 84, 85

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International application No.  
PCT/CA2005/000420

Patent Document Cited in Search Report	Publication Date	Patent Family Member(s)	Publication Date
CA1145526 A1	03-05-1983	DE3263810D D1	04-07-1985
		EP0060014 A1	15-09-1982
		US4422270 A	27-12-1983
		ZA8200403 A	29-12-1982
US2593683	22-04-1952	NONE	
CA1300337	12-05-1992	AT68547T T	15-11-1991
		DE3773828D D1	21-11-1991
		EP0263916 A2	20-04-1988
		ES2026862T T3	16-05-1992
		GR3003391T T3	17-02-1993
		IT1201580 B	02-02-1989
		JP63110353 A	14-05-1988
		US4798030 A	17-01-1989
US2724466	22-11-1955	NONE	
CA2366561 A1	16-08-2001	AU3146301 A	20-08-2001
		US6397529 B1	04-06-2002
		WO0159233 A1	16-08-2001
CA2226065 A1	25-12-1998	BR9800064 A	20-03-2001
		DE19727043 A1	04-02-1999
		DE19881103D D2	04-01-2001
		US6067758 A	30-05-2000
		WO9900560 A1	07-01-1999
FR2740802 A1	09-05-1997	NONE	

## Supplemental Box No. III

**Group A** - Claims 1-58, 84 and 85 are directed to a modular stringer comprising step support units having a main structural body, a first mating structure and a second mating structure, said first mating structure of said step support unit being adapted to be matingly coupled with an adjacent second mating structure of an adjacent step support unit such that said adjacent unit is vertically offset therefrom;

**Group B** - Claims 59-76 and 86 are directed to a modular stringer comprising step support units having at least one shaft and at least one coupling arm, said coupling arm of a first step support unit being adapted for accepting and solidly retaining said shaft of an adjacent step support unit therein such that said adjacent support unit may be vertically offset therefrom; and

**Group C** - Claims 77-83 and 87-90 are directed to a staircase comprising: at least two stringers; a series of steps adapted to be mounted to said stringers; and a plurality of step mounting brackets having a first flange and a second flange, each said step comprising a tread and a riser which are mounted to said stringers by said step mounting brackets.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/CA2005/000420

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of the first sheet)

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PCT/CA2005/000420

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7): E04F 11/025

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Special categories of cited documents :</li> <li>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</li> <li>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</li> <li>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</li> <li>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</li> <li>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</li> <li>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</li> <li>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</li> <li>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
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Date of mailing of the international search report

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Facsimile No.: 001(819)953-2476

Authorized officer  
  
Patrick Cyr (819) 953-1304



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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CA1145526 A1	03-05-1983	DE3263810D D1 EP0060014 A1 US4422270 A ZA8200403 A	04-07-1985 15-09-1982 27-12-1983 29-12-1982
US2593683	22-04-1952	NONE	
CA1300337	12-05-1992	AT68547T T DE3773828D D1 EP0263916 A2 ES2026862T T3 GR3003391T T3 IT1201580 B JP63110353 A US4798030 A	15-11-1991 21-11-1991 20-04-1988 16-05-1992 17-02-1993 02-02-1989 14-05-1988 17-01-1989
US2724466	22-11-1955	NONE	
CA2366561 A1	16-08-2001	AU3146301 A US6397529 B1 WO0159233 A1	20-08-2001 04-06-2002 16-08-2001
CA2226065 A1	25-12-1998	BR9800064 A DE19727043 A1 DE19881103D D2 US6067758 A WO9900560 A1	20-03-2001 04-02-1999 04-01-2001 30-05-2000 07-01-1999
FR2740802 A1	09-05-1997	NONE	

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/CA2005/000420

### Supplemental Box No. III

**Group A** - Claims 1-58, 84 and 85 are directed to a modular stringer comprising step support units having a main structural body, a first mating structure and a second mating structure, said first mating structure of said step support unit being adapted to be matingly coupled with an adjacent second mating structure of an adjacent step support unit such that said adjacent unit is vertically offset therefrom;

**Group B** - Claims 59-76 and 86 are directed to a modular stringer comprising step support units having at least one shaft and at least one coupling arm, said coupling arm of a first step support unit being adapted for accepting and solidly retaining said shaft of an adjacent step support unit therein such that said adjacent support unit may be vertically offset therefrom; and

**Group C** - Claims 77-83 and 87-90 are directed to a staircase comprising: at least two stringers; a series of steps adapted to be mounted to said stringers; and a plurality of step mounting brackets having a first flange and a second flange, each said step comprising a tread and a riser which are mounted to said stringers by said step mounting brackets.